Irondale Historical Society

Winter 2012

Irondale Historical Society
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K0M 1X0

irondalehistory@gmail.com

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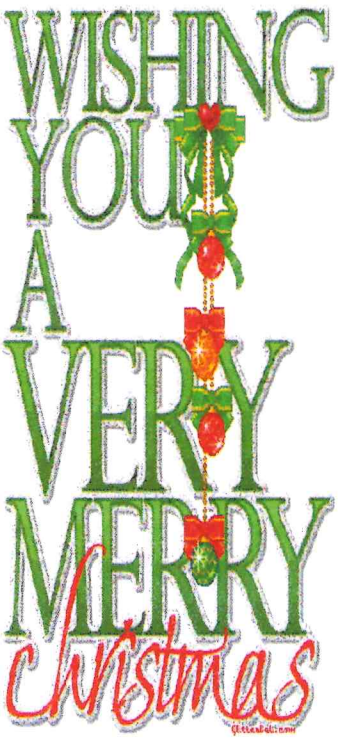
Frequency of publication:
Objective – quarterly
Reality—when time permits



Tradition is alive and well in Irondale ...

As in the past, decorating started early Saturday morning with the final touches being made mid-afternoon on Sunday. The hall was filled with people & satisfied bellies for the 7pm service.

Many hands made light work with décor.

By 7pm daylight was gone, and shadows move in.

Mining in Irondale ...

The mining in Irondale will be highlighted in some respect next summer. Gary Blundell, an accomplished artist, will be exhibiting at the Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre from August 17 to October 6, 2013. While the paintings began as an effort to depict what the miners would have seen on a daily basis, at their feet, the vanishing light from the lamp seems to act as a metaphor for the decline of the mining industry over the last several decades. They are an attempt to bring about thoughts of the proud ancestry of the many individuals that worked the mines from generation to generation. Included with these paintings will be informational displays on local Haliburton mining history including that of the Irondale mines and Charles Pusey with ore and mineral samples from the local mines. To view some of Gary Blundell's work please visit www.hotspurstudio.com

Toronto Iron Company

Charles J. Pusey— I reside at Irondale in the county of Haliburton, and am engaged in building railways and operating mines. We are building the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa railway, extending from Kinmount to Ottawa. It is an independent line and there are ten miles graded and ironed. It is being built to serve the mineral interests of the district. I am president of the Toronto Iron company, which was organized in 1881, and the subscribed capital of which is $150,000, all paid up, principally in properties. We have five locations, one of which we lease, but the others are owned in fee simple. Two are situated in Snowdon and three in Galmorgan. There are 100 acres in the leasehold property & 700 in the other four. We have found in each of these five properties; on the leasehold we have magnetic ore ... Cont'd page 3

Condolences to
the families of

Shirley Wilson Sept 23, 2012
Fredrick Andrew Simmons Nov 7, 2012
Pearl (Woermke) Simmons Nov 18, 2012
and James Joseph Simmons Nov 23, 2012

The Creator has called you home.
Like a bird you will soar to his arms to
live forever with out pain or worry.
Till we meet again.

The night of January 20 is "Saint Agnes's Eve",
a time when a young woman dreams of her future husband.

St. Agnes, like St. Valentine, St. Catherine of Alexandria, & St. Anthony of Padua, is invoked by single women in search of a husband -- and is a good day to pray such a prayer. In fact, Medieval folklore says that on St. Agnes Eve, girls are often granted visions of their future husbands. Scottish girls would meet in a crop field at midnight, throw grain onto the soil, and pray: Agnes sweet and Agnes fair, Hither, hither, now repair; Bonny Agnes, let me see The lad who is to marry me. In some places, it was said that those who fast, keep silence, and conduct certain rituals will have a vision of their future husband. The rituals vary from place to place, but included among them are walking backwards to bed while not looking behind you; pulling out a row of pins, saying a Pater for each one; eating a yolk less boiled egg with salt filling the cavity where the yolk had been, thereby prompting the future husband to bring the girl water in a dream; making a special cake called a "dumb cake," walking backward with it to bed, and eating it; and sprinkling sprigs of thyme and rosemary with holy water, placing them on each side of the bed, and invoking St. Agnes.

John Keats's lenthy "Romeo and Juliette-esque" poem, "Eve of St. Agnes," published in 1820, in which the maiden, Madeleine, goes to bed on St. Agnes' Eve, as her horrible family has a huge party in another part of the house. The "Beadsman" refers to a pauper who is paid to pray for his employer. (Warning: the poem is a rather sensual one!).

For more spiritually enrichening reading see the much shorter poem on St. Agnes' Eve by Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892), which concerns a nun's looking forward to Heaven.

Forty lashes for me !!!
Sorry Michelle Bannock
Realized after the newsletters were published that I had misspelled your name.

Research Grant progress

Our researcher had been working feverishly to photocopy the pertinent pages from the Abstract books at the Minden Registry Office. The first page assigned to each lot in our 'catchment area' indicates the original owners and the instrument numbers assigned to mortgages & sales.
It is our understanding that these books will be removed from the Minden Office at some point in the future and will be only available on microfilm readers. The copies are done. Now Amy is transcribing the handwriting to make it easier to decipher quickly. We will be pulling documents assigned to each lot to glean what we can from them for future newsletter articles and displays.

We have found mention of burial ground not far from the corner of Salerno Lake Road and Irondale Road. Further investigation is needed.

We have found a Margaret Humphreys owned a fair chunk of property in the area. Very unusual for a woman to own property in the mid 1800s. Would be fantastic to uncover more information on her. Perhaps we will find her will in one of these files.

HCDC

If you are really thankful, what do you do?
You share.

The Irondale Historical Society had a booth at the Family History Day held at the Fenelon Falls Museum on August 18. Many were interested in the displayed photos & conversation about them. Well worth the early rise and fresh air.

Iron Company from page 1

on the next lot brown minerals hematite, and all the others are magnetic. We have done some development on the leasehold property. It is situated on lot 26, concession 4 of Snowdon, and is known as the Howland mine We began operations there in 1880 and have worked it at intervals since. We are at present sinking a shaft and have twelve men employed. The surrounding rock is crystalline limestone. We have found no walls yet, and therefore cannot give the width of the vein, for it is a vein unquestionably. We have found an outcrop of about 25 feet in diameter. We sunk a shaft 12 by 24 feet, and are down now about 70 feet. At a depth of 25 feet the work was enlarged by extension towards the walls in the form of an ellipse, the longer axis of which is about 65 feet and the shorter about 35 feet, and this was carried to a depth of about 25 feet. There was no wall, but solid iron ore and accompanying rock. At the depth of that room it was narrowed down to 25 feet, & carried to a total depth of 65 feet from the surface. We are now 10 feet below that, narrowed to the size of the shaft, making 75 or 77 feet from the outcrop. The quality of the ore so far as its freedom from phosphorus and sulphur is concerned is about the same all the way down, but it varies in its freedom from rocky matter. The value of the ore has increased as we have gone down, as there is a decrease in the amount of the less valuable ore.

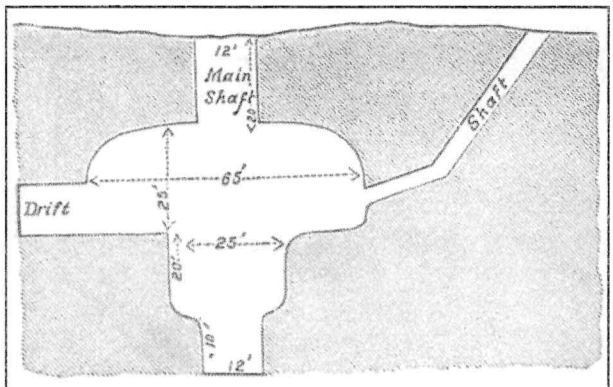
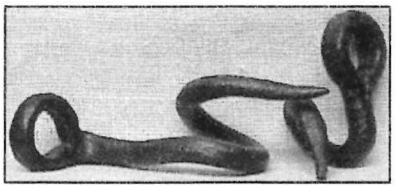


FIG. 20. Cross-section of Howland mine.

The best ore ranges from 55 to 60 percent of iron, and shows only .005 of phosphorus and .06 of sulphur. In the lower workings there is a large proportion of god ore, but higher up there was about an equal proportion of low grade and high grade ores. Analyses of the ore have been made by Prof. Chapman, the Cambria Iron company, Booth & Garrett, and by the Troy Steel and Iron company. The analysis made by the last named company gave metallic iron 59.50 and phosphorus .005. We place the standard of shipping ore at 58 or 60 per cent of iron, and have thrown out a great deal that did not come up to the standard. We shipped about 1,500 tons in 1881 and 1882, but have done nothing since then except about 100 tons last summer. The first named shipments were made to the Cambria Iron company. It was mixed with their own ore and the smelting was very satisfactory. We have now a contract with a large steel company which will use nearly all we can produce for a while. They will take from 500 to 1,000 tons a month if the ore will suit their mixture. There is a good market for our ores in the United States. Our ore is a freer working ore than those of northern Michigan, as it contains a greater proportion of lime, magnesia and aluminum.

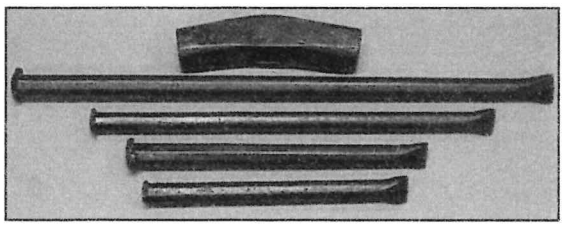
Page 131 ... Taken from "Report of the Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Ontario and Measures for their Development." Printed by order of the Legislative Assembly. Printed by Warwick & Sons, 68 & 70



Pigtails were used to attach the ore buckets to the hoisting cable.

Above photo shows three men hammering away in an open pit mine.

Dago-style hammer and hand drill steels.



~ Bark Lake Cultural Developments ~

Responsible for the Purchase, Restoration and Maintenance of the Irondale Community Church

Ontario Incorporation date — May 22 2012

Bark Lake Cultural Developments Board of Directors

Carol Simmons
Robert Hancock
Fred Simmons
George Simmons
Barry Simmons
Michael Roots
Melissa Simmons-Biskup

~Rentals~

If you are interested in using the Irondale Community Church for your next function, please contact Glenda Simmons 705-447-2679 or Carol Simmons 705-457-8438 to discuss the particulars

The community has lost ...

Irondale has suffered the loss of a few members this past year, four since our last newsletter!

Frederick Andrew Simmons (Nov 7, 2012) and Pearl Maria Woermke Simmons (Nov 18, 2012) were both very instrumental in the ministering of the Irondale Church.

The church and his religion was very important to Fred. He worked for the church 70+ years serving as people's warden for many years. Wardens are expected to lead the parishioners by setting a good example, encouraging unity and peace as well as the day to day maintenance of the church building and contents.
Many remember the large garden next to the church. Fred tended to it, selling the produce, giving the proceeds to the church.

Pearl assisted her husband and family in many ways.
After she married Fred, Pearl helped to operate the Simmons Service Station, later working at the Irondale General Store & Post Office.
Pearl was a faithful servant of the Irondale Church for more than 50 years; holding position of secretary, envelope steward & treasurer for many of those years.

Some email segments follow -

"I met Fred when he used to have the vegetable garden by the church. He was an original. Talk about a pillar of the church."

"We do remembers Fred, he was maybe the first person whom we learned to know in Irondale. He welcomed us to the church."

"Irondale will really miss Fred—he was a pillar & a mainstay of the community for so many years. Fred was such a major factor in its upkeep & maintenance—he will be sorely missed, but I know he has gone to a far, far better place—the angels will be celebrating his arrival."

"The whole community will be feeling the loss of two great troopers for the Church."

Liquidation 'Sale' Dec 6 - 9 on Kinmount's Main Street

Due to some very generous individuals in the Toronto area, we were the recipients of many small items recently. What to do with the trailer(s) full! Some of the wool/yarn went home with a summer resident to be made into saleable items, some went to the Haliburton Red Wolves for their projects. The solid tables & chairs are situated in the church hall. There are still some beautiful office chairs available for a $40 donation. The 10' boardroom table & the 8' credenza has a new home at Haliburton County's volunteer radio station—Canoe 93.5FM. The heavy folding tables will be utilized at the Haliburton County Fair in August 2013. The small stuff was 'sold'. A very generous store owner donated his building to us for the weekend, allowing us to offer our windfall at very low, low prices — passing on our good fortune to the residents of the Kinmount area. 'Sales' were brisk—stock dwindled quickly.

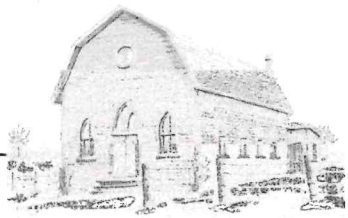
People donated just over $1000 in the three days!

THANK YOU!

Photography by Lynn Crego

~ Bark Lake Cultural Developments ~

Responsible for the Purchase, Restoration and Maintenance of the Irondale Community Church



Irondale Community Church Bake Sale

The Thanksgiving Weekend Bake Sale, planned by Melissa Simmons-Biskup, enjoyed by all was an overwhelming success. The weather man provided a dry, albeit cool couple days, enabling Melissa and crew (Ryan Simmons-Biskup; Christine Hancock; Arlene, Glenda & Jill Simmons; Mike, Brett & Rachel Roots) to handle the brisk sales. Two locations were offered. Irondale General Store offered their parking lot for Friday. Saturday saw the tables set up at Lucky Taylor's in Kinmount. Both locations provided shoppers with plenty of parking space.

This event raised a whopping $1,928.66. Kudos everybody!

Thanks to the people that baked for days & weeks ahead and Thanks to all the shoppers!

ATV POKER RIDE — — Saturday, October 13, 2012 RECAP

Forty two riders enjoyed the brisk morning start to the scenic ride. The day warmed up considerably as the morning went on. The riders enjoyed peameal, egg and cheese with lots of hot coffee while registering their bikes. Each rider received a tracking number, a chance at many door prizes and a metal water bottle. Some chose to fill their new metal bottle with hot coffee to enjoy on the trails. It is unfortunate that we do not have any photos to share with you. Everyone was enjoying the camaraderie so much it didn't occur to us to get the camera out. Fabulous homemade chili, burgers & beer were offered to participants while the points were being tallied. Along with the winning hands listed in the box to the right, there were eight additional prizes to give away as well as the door prize of 2 tickets to the I.H.S. Wild Game Dinner in July.

The ATV Poker Ride netted profits of $1,239

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

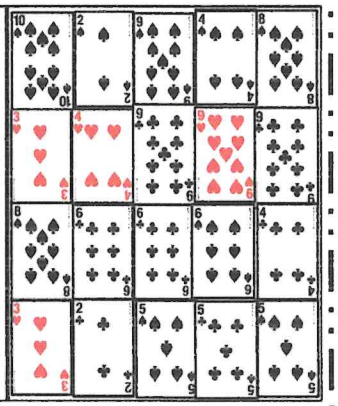
Winners' Circle

Reinhold Boehm continues his winning streak with a Five Card Flush.

Bud Keenan made the trek from Lindsay to finish the ride with 3 of a kind in nines.

Jacob Graham of Irondale had a great showing with 3 of a kind in sixes.

and Ranold Wright also had 3 of a kind. His were in fives.



THANK YOU

Bark Lake Cultural Developments owes a huge Thank You to Mrs. Caroline Darling of Toronto for the generous donation of tables, chairs, & craft items. These items have been dispersed throughout the area to those organizations that can make use of them. Extra items will be 'sold off' for donations to cover delivery expenses.

Thank You Caroline. Very much appreciated!

Sunday, December 23, 7 pm

Join Us for Our

Traditional Candlelight Service

followed by a Good Old Fashioned

Carol Sing and refreshments.

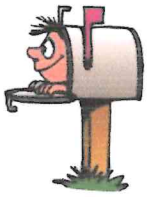
If we are good, maybe even a visit from Old St. Nick himself

OUR POSTAGE HERO

Jean Neville is the postage hero for this issue.

Jean donated the necessary funds to have this issue mailed to the residents of Irondale area as well as those with an interest in staying in touch.

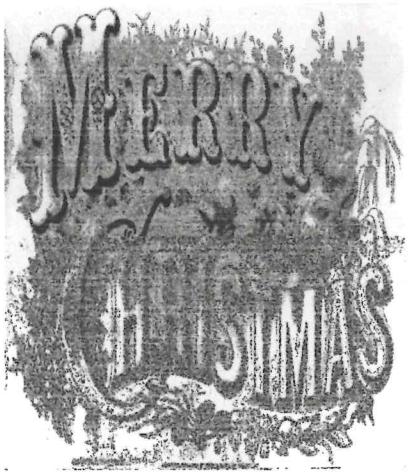
THANK YOU



Can We Entice You To Become A Postage Provider ?

It takes $55 for postage each time we do a mailing. This money allows us to send a complete newsletter to all households on our mailing list. Please consider donating enough postage for one mailing.
Contact a member of the Irondale Historical Board for further details. Contact information on front page.

As featured in a previous edition of the Kinmount Gazette ... The evidence of activity at the Irondale-Furnace Falls iron deposit are all but erased as the forest reclaims its tranquility. A firm and explosion destroyed the smelter in 1887; it was not rebuilt. But had it bee rebuilt, it probably would have closed soon after. By this time the company later to be known as Stelco was gathering capital and momentum, and by 1914 was dominating steel in Ontario. The ore at Furnace Falls was unfortunately high in sulphur, producing a brittle pig iron. This sulphur can be removed, but there is still no market as long as high-quality ore without sulphur is obtainable from Steep Rock, Bruce Lake, Temagami or Labrador City.



Please Remember this is your newsletter.

Your editor welcomes all pieces of local trivia, pictures and stories. Have you read a poem or quote that you would like to share? One of Grandma's recipes? How about an old remedy that mom or grandma used to fix your cold? We always have a space to fill, phone 705-286-3588 or email irondalehistory@gmail.com

Philanthropy is not something that I think about. It is part of who I am and something that I simply like to do. What motivates me is knowing that in some small way, I have been able to contribute to the goodness of the community."

If you do not see your name below—your membership has lapsed.

Kay Armatage; Michelle Bannock; Ron Barr; Yvette Brauer; Lorne Buckingham Sr.; Sue Buckingham; Marianne Cassin; Loweena Dean; Pat DeFrancesco; Heather, Janet & Laura Farina; Mary Graham; Arnold Hancock; Ed & Christine Hancock; Mark Hancock; Heather Hancock; Robert Hancock; Madeleine Howarth; Percy Lavers; Kathy McAlpine; Sylvia Melanson; Pat Miller; Jean Neville; Klara Oyler, Helen Pantridge; Ronnie Rankin; Bill Procter; Jean Quibell; Dorothy Reid; Doug Rodger; Barbara Gordon; Ron & June Shepstone; Fred & Carol Simmons; George & Glenda Simmons; Bruce & Susan Thompson; Marg Swanton; Samantha Thompson; Jane Wilson; Nikki Al & Pat Witham; Bill & Bette Witham; Gary & Kathy Mansfield; Kingsley Greenham; Fred & Manny Albert;

Want to see your name listed here in the next issue?
Want to show your support for the worthy projects taken on?
You need to send in your $10 per person membership.

Potluck Dinners

Glenda Simmons has been busy organizing monthly **Potluck Dinners** at the Irondale Community Centre. These dinners allow us to keep in touch with our neighbours and friends as well as honour those with birthdays that month. The gatherings have ranged from 20 something to over 40 individual people enjoying the vast variety of foods offered. Sure beats trying to come up with variety in your own household!

August

September

October

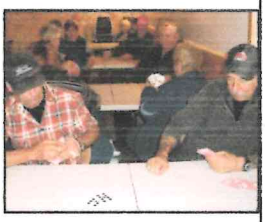
Oct Anniversaries

We'd like you to join us each month. Call Glenda at 705-447-2679 and let her know you want on the phone list. She will notify you when the dinners are going to take place. The dates each month vary as they need to be worked around the community centre rental schedule.

Euchre

Wednesday nights at 7 pm you'll find many of us gathered around the tables for a friendly game of progressive euchre. The skill level of our players range from enough to get by to those quite adept at the game. Either way we have a load of fun as we each play six games, enjoy sandwiches & desserts and many good laughs.

Prizes awarded for Most Points, Most Lone Hands & Lowest Points. Most nights we are all cleaned up and on our way home by 9pm.



At just $2 each it is a great way to spend a couple hours.

Annual Fundraiser Dinner, Saturday September 22, 2012

Saturday, September 21, saw many of us lining up for delicious stew & tea biscuits as well as loonies to spend later on the various items up for grabs. George Simmons presented Doug Pearson with a Certificate of Appreciation for the fabulous work his does as Loonie Auctioneers.

Doug will empty your pockets—all for a good cause of course & a lot of laughs.

Big winner!

Congratulations to Newly Weds Percy & Barbara Lavers married Sept 22, 2012. Spent their first evening with friends & neighbours at the Irondale Community Centre's Loonie Auction Dinner!

Community Centre Contacts

Rentals for the centre & the big tent can be booked through Barry Simmons 705-447-2380. There is an answering machine so be sure to leave your name and number, so that a return call can be made.

Committee members—
Jean Neville (councillor)
Barry Simmons
George Simmons
Rick Ratcliffe
Jane Wilson
Chris James

Haliburton County Historical Society

Upcoming Events for 2013

January 12, 2013, 8pm Live Band for 3rd Annual Golden Slipper Music Era
Held at the Wild Moose, 1701 Wigamog Rd. $10 pp Dress in the 50's style

February 23, 2013, 1:30pm Shirley Warder talks about 'One Room School Houses'
Held at the Minden Cultural Centre, 174-176 Bobcaygeon Rd in Minden $5 pp

March 28, 2013, 1:30pm Ron Barr 'You will be dying to hear'
Held at the McCausland Community Centre in Gooderham $5 pp

April 18, 2013, 1:30 pm Doreen Thompson talks about the 'United Empire Loyalists'
Held at the Minden Cultural Centre, 174-176 Bobcaygeon Rd in Minden $5 pp

May 23, 2014 Annual General Meeting, 12 noon Bessie Sullivan's topic is 'Education'
Held at Maple Lake United Church, Stanhope Airport Rd & Hwy 118 $5 pp

Jun 20, 2013, 1:30 pm Ruth Still introduces you to Eagle Lake "The Place"
Held at the Eagle Lake Community Church $5 pp

August 22, 2013, 1:30 pm Pam Rolfe & Mary Chynoweth topic—'Women's Institute of Haliburton'
Held at Maple Lake United Church, Stanhope Airport Rd & Hwy 118 $5 pp

September Meeting—date to be arranged Sali Tagliamonte—'Oral Histories of Haliburtonians'
Held at Maple Lake United Church, Stanhope Airport Rd & Hwy 118 $5 pp

Membership to the Haliburton County Historical Society is
$20 per year, $30 per couple if living at the same address.
Contact Larry Giles, President at 2162 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands, K0M 1J1

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Clip and save on your refrigerator—you won't want to miss either one!

IRONDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

VICTORIAN TEA

Saturday June 15, 2013

Doors open 11:30 am Lunch served noon

Irondale Church

$15 per person

IRONDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

WILD GAME DINNER

Saturday July 20, 2013

Doors open 5 pm Dinner served at 6pm

Galway Community Centre

Be sure to bring your loonies
for Loonie Auction Excitement

$20 per person

reserve yours today by emailing irondalehistory@gmail.com or mailing to P.O. Box 113, Irondale, ON K0M 1X0